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CLASSIFICATION

CONTINUED

DATE OF INFORMATION

April 1956

**FROM  
COMRAVIER, APO 403**

**SUBJECT**

GERMANY/BFR - Biographical information on Fed. Rep. Ministry of Defense Visitors to 6th Fleet

**BRIEF IF POSSIBLY REPORTS OF MORE THAN ONE PAGE. ENTER CAREFUL SUMMARY**

Report provides biographical data and comments on LtGen HERRINGER, Rear Admiral WAGNER, MajGen LAKKONEN, and Capt GILL, Fed. Republic Ministry of Defense Representatives who were guests of the U. S. Navy aboard ships of the U. S. Sixth Fleet 114874

U487413

Refs: (a) COMMUNICATOR LTR 0072 of 10 April 1956

Enclosure: (1) Biographical data on General A. H. MAHLER obtained from Headquarters, 66th CIC Group, USAF, dated 21 Jan 1955.

(2) Biographical data on General Hellmuth LAMMER taken from Intelligence Review, December 1955 and January 1956 issue

1. INTRODUCTION: From 1 April to 5 April 1956, LtGen Adolf HEUSSINGER, Rear Admiral G. WAGNER, Major General HELMUTH LAERHIER, and Captain W. GAUL, GM, were guests of the U.S. Navy aboard ships of the U.S. Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean. The ministry of Defense officials were escorted by Captain F. T. HANFORD, Naval Attaché, Bonn and LCDR V. L. KNULLY, COMUSNAVAIR Representative Hanisch. From all outward appearances the visit to the Sixth Fleet was a complete success and all German officials appeared to be greatly impressed, especially with the quarterdeck honors rendered to them on board the Flagship Newport News, and the night air operations aboard the TICONDEROGA. Both Generals displayed keen interest in, and gained vital understanding for the capabilities and tasks of modern naval forces.

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## INFORMATION REPORT SPECIAL HANDLING REQUIRED, NOT RELEASEABLE TO FOREIGN NATIONALS

OPNAV FORM 3620-2 (CI) (REV. 6-68)

CLASSIFICATION <b>CONFIDENTIAL</b>	FROM COMNAVFLER, APO 403	REPORT NO. 560-56	DATE 23 April 1956
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2. LtGen Adolf HEUSINGER:

a. Biographical data on Gen Adolf HEUSINGER is forwarded herewith as enclosure (1). Paragraph 4 of enclosure (1) is believed in error in stating that after 1945 Gen HEUSINGER settled in Munich and from 1948 - 1951 he occupied himself as a free lance writer. LtGen HEUSINGER conceded to the fact that during this period he was associated with Gen GRIESEN's GIS. It is further known that while associated with GRIESEN, Gen HEUSINGER acted as Chief of the GIS Army Evaluation Section until the year 1951 when he was appointed as Chief Military Advisor to the present Minister of Defense Herr Theodore BLANK.

b. The COMNAVFLER plane was used for the transportation of the German officials to and from the Mediterranean. Gen HEUSINGER appeared punctually at the Bonn-Wahn airport in a small Opel sedan driven by a semi-uniformed chauffeur who appeared more as a servant than an member of the military. It could not be said that Gen HEUSINGER was in the best of spirits on boarding the aircraft; he appeared resigned, and as if he were a soldier about to depart on a mission ordered by his superiors. The minute and detailed German translation of open publications provided by the Office of Naval Attaché, to acquaint the German officials with the capabilities and the tasks of the Sixth Fleet, the charts on the Mediterranean supplied by COMNAVFLER, the coffee, smokes, newspapers and gum provided by COMNAVFLER RNP Berlin and the prevalent atmosphere brought about Gen HEUSINGER's first display of enthusiasm for the forthcoming visit with the Sixth Fleet. The initial indifferent attitude of Gen HEUSINGER may possibly be attributed to the sentiment attached to the Easter holidays by most Germans regardless of their religion. It is noted that the departure from Bonn was Easter Sunday and that Easter Monday is also an official holiday in the Fed. Rep.

c. Obviously in a better disposition, Gen HEUSINGER engaged in a lengthy conversation with Gen LANGEKLER. This officer was at a loss to explain the variety of rather sensitive topics of conversation discussed by the two (2) Generals in his presence. Gen HEUSINGER discussed such topics as developments in recent SHAPE meetings, inability to procure sufficient dollar allotments for the visit to the Sixth Fleet, and he criticized the actions of the Personnel Screening Committee as well as the recent attack on Gen HEUSINGER published by the "SPIEGEL". He also discussed the German General Staff reaction to Colonel KIKLJANSINGH's progress with the German mission assigned to Paris, and the various personalities best suited for unoccupied billets in the German Army. Although both Generals acted as very close friends it appeared that General LANGEKLER did not have many opportunities to talk in private with General HEUSINGER. At least it so appeared from the points Gen LANGEKLER discussed with Gen HEUSINGER written in his note book. After the choice seat of this officer was relinquished to Admiral WAGNER the conversation changed to naval matters and Gen HEUSINGER listened to the progress achieved by Admirals HUGK and WAGNER from the day they assumed their naval responsibilities in Bonn. This also appeared to be the first opportunity for Admiral WAGNER to have a private talk with Gen HEUSINGER; Gen LANGEKLER abstained from this conversation.

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OPNAV FORM 3820-2 (C) (REV. 6-66)

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d. The genuine interest of Gen HEUSINGER in naval matters and operation was best displayed at the COMSIXTHFLIB briefng arranged in the CO's cabin at 1000 on 2 April. It was Gen HEUSINGER who posed the most strategic and tactical questions to Capt. R. L. SHIFLEY, Operations Officer of COMSIXTHFLIB. This occasion presented Admiral WAGNER with an opportunity to volunteer his professional abilities, and thus, to introduce himself as a naval advisor, a role which he maintained throughout the remainder of the visit.

e. Gen HEUSINGER did not control his remarks of enthusiasm during the A/A exercise conducted aboard the Flagship and during the shore bombardment of the Porto Seco area. However, he displayed his greatest enthusiasm during the air operations aboard the TICONDEROGA, when he said that this was his greatest experience since WW II.

f. Paragraph 4 of enclosure (1) states that Gen HEUSINGER is a "Typical staff officer of the old school. Today regarded as a walking military dictionary \_\_\_\_". In this officer's opinion the latter statement may be expanded to insert "precise walking military dictionary". He is meticulous in his mannerism and in his actions, and he remains a soldier in every respect. He listens attentively to explanations, and he does not hesitate to ask questions. Hours later he ponders over his own conclusions which do not necessarily coincide with those of others. He is in excellent physical condition, believed to be a result of strict moderation and stern determination to keep in good shape. He displayed no strain after the most strenuous inspection trips throughout the ship's spaces. It was Gen HEUSINGER who studied the pamphlet on the TICONDEROGA after he retired one evening, and it was he who explained to the remainder of the party the next day the dimensions of the carrier and its WW II history. Gen HEUSINGER admires discipline and respects strict adherence to regulations; he read all posted regulations. He has the ability to relax, and he attributes his remaining calm and efficient in his "PENTAGON" shop to his "closing the door completely" after he leaves the office. He has many hobbies, and he stated that the greatest difficulty encountered by Gen HEUSINGER after his retirement was that "he could not find a thing to do". Gen HEUSINGER left this officer with the impression that he is slightly pro-British; he spoke highly of the British military system and he sympathized with the many difficulties with which Britain is confronted.

g. It cannot be said that Gen HEUSINGER is not sociable. At a cocktail party arranged on 1 April for the German visitors at the house of Capt. C. L. FREEMAN, Chief of Staff, COMSIXTHFLIB, Gen HEUSINGER enjoyed his (2) two refreshments and mixed harmoniously with the wives and officers of the Staff. Later that evening, at a dinner arranged for the German officials by ADM SCHINDLER, COMNAVFLIBER, Gen HEUSINGER appeared to be free of all his military views and even enjoyed some risqué stories told by Gen LAERHLER. Gen HEUSINGER is a moderate smoker; he enjoys Robert Burns' cigarettes, but not cigarettes. He enjoys solitude, and likes to relax and read. He likes wines, but he also enjoys the U.S. type of refreshment prior to dining.

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3. ADM Gerhart WAGNER:

a. Little can be added to the biographical data already submitted on ADM WAGNER. ADM WAGNER is senior in rank to GEN LANGEKLER, and this fact was established by ADM WAGNER soon after the COMNAVGER aircraft left Bonn. However, in contrast to GEN HEUSINGER, ADM WAGNER is not burdened with the Prussian mannerism, nor with the stern meticulousness of a typical German Army General Staff officer. This is not to say that ADM WAGNER is not precise, nor that he does not detect the most minute discrepancies. It is rather an attempt to imply that ADM WAGNER manages to confront situations with more ease and in a more diplomatic and democratic fashion. ADM WAGNER would respond to courtesies with a salute or even shake hands with a sailor. It appeared that ADM WAGNER was the "more popular" member of the German visitors, possibly because of his naval uniform, but most likely because of the "salty" appearance of his heavy and unusually long black eye brows, and snow white hair. (Here it must also be said that the new German Army uniform leaves much to be desired should comparison be made with the traditional naval uniform adopted by the German Navy).

b. ADM WAGNER appeared content and happy to be aboard a "live ship". His presence was everywhere, and his interest unlimited. He carefully explained to GEN HEUSINGER those points which he believed needed to be stressed or elaborated upon. At times he drew a comparison with the various equipment installed aboard German vessels in the past, or he stressed the advantages of U.S. equipment or U.S. Navy methods or systems for the new German Navy. It was noted that GEN HEUSINGER sought to verify ADM WAGNER's recommendations with U.S. Naval officers, with whom he introduced the recommendations on every occasion. It appeared that ADM WAGNER was cognizant of GEN HEUSINGER's astuteness for he did not volunteer any explanation of which he was not absolutely certain.

c. Although ADM WAGNER is about 58 years old his physical condition appeared to be excellent. With surprising elasticity he followed GEN HEUSINGER up and down the ladders, and he was not contented until he was absolutely certain that no additional decks remained uninspected. This was the case during the inspection of the mechanism of the fully automatic guns. It was noted that at times ADM WAGNER breathed rather heavily, but this asthma condition does not appear to make him uncomfortable. ADM WAGNER is not as versatile with the English language as GEN HEUSINGER; however, he understands English much better than he speaks. Although he makes a serious attempt to remain moderate in his drinking and smoking habits, ADM WAGNER enjoys Pall Mall cigarettes, cigarillos, and Havana cigars; he prefers whiskey, cocktails and wine to beer. On two (2) occasions, GEN HEUSINGER and ADM WAGNER discussed the advisability of adopting the U.S. Navy "dry ship" regulation in the German Navy; however on both occasions, ADM WAGNER humorously retorted that this would be possible only after the German Navy is formed and in full operation - otherwise it would be impossible to recruit a sailor in Germany.

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OPNAV FORM 3020-2 (C) REV. 6-58

CLASSIFICATION <del>CONFIDENTIAL</del>	FROM COMNAVFLR, APO 403	REPORT NO. 560-56	DATE 23 April 1956
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4. Gen Hellmuth LANGEKLER:

- a. Biographical data on MajGen H. LANGEKLER is forwarded as enclosure (2).
- b. In contrast to Gen HESSINGER, Gen LANGEKLER disregarded all Easter sentiments, and with it the traditional family reunion; he waited at the Bonn-Wahn airport in an exceptionally jovial mood, and greeted all those present both U.S. and Germans with the words: "This is the best Easter present I could wish for". Gen LANGEKLER was the best prepared member of the German delegation. In addition to notes, open publications and pamphlets containing the U.S. Navy ranks, insignia and uniforms which he brought along, he studied very carefully all the literature that was made available to him by Capt. HARLOWNER, USN. Gen LANGEKLER, a husky and rather coarse individual, filled the aircraft with his enthusiasm for the forthcoming visit. A straight forward and frank person who possesses a hearty uncontrollable laughter, Gen LANGEKLER is earnest in his pro-US attitude. He expressed his gratitude many times for the opportunity to visit the Sixth Fleet and for the first time in his life to go aboard a large navy ship. From his talk, the number of books he has read on the U.S. Navy, and the films he has seen featuring the U.S. Navy in the Pacific, it appeared that Gen LANGEKLER is a staunch supporter and admirer of the U.S. Navy.
- c. It would be rather difficult to describe the genuine, sincere, and unconstrained manner in which Gen LANGEKLER expressed his gratitude, interest and admiration for every U.S. Navy effort to acquaint him with the task of a modern naval force. It appeared as if Gen LANGEKLER regarded the visit to the Sixth Fleet as an exceptional favor, and it was indeed most unfortunate that his knowledge of the English language was so negligible that he was forced to depend on translations or explanations usually made after the briefings.
- d. Gen LANGEKLER, who claims Stuttgart as his home, loves good food, but he is forced to give preference to a low-calory French diet. He is proud of having reduced about 25 lbs during the past year; his present weight (according to his words) is about 225 lbs. Gen LANGEKLER enjoys cigars, but smokes filtered cigarettes on occasion. He takes refreshments in any liquid form with the exception of beer which he finds very tasty, but prohibitive for his waistline. Out of the entire German delegation, Gen LANGEKLER alone spent most of his dollar allotment for the purchases of liquor, cognacs, and perfumes which he brought back to Bonn.

5. Capt W. GAUL, GDR:

- a. In view of the Easter Sunday, Capt GAUL left his wife and family rather reluctantly. Apparently, after he made arrangements with his family for the holidays, he was informed by ADM WAGNER that he would participate in the visit in his lieu of Mr. DOMINGO, Minister of the U.S. Embassy, who was unable to attend. However, come in Nice, Italy, and aboard the ships Capt GAUL, a true easygoing Bavarian at heart, appeared to take advantage of this unusual opportunity for him to observe the fleet operations.

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b. Little doubt remains that the inclusion of Capt GAUL in the group of Ministry of Defense officials was of definite advantage and of value to the German representatives. His command of the English language is excellent and his speaking ability, especially the use of technical terminology, excels that of Gen HEUSINGER. Capt GAUL displayed his detailed knowledge of U.S. and UK naval aircraft performance data to the German representatives; he impressed both Gen HEUSINGER and ADM WAGNER with his quick and precise conversions of U.S. weights and measurements to European systems.

c. Capt GAUL impressed this officer with his enthusiasm and devotion to his present duties in Bonn. He severely criticized the bureaucratic organization of Section XI of the Ministry of Defense, as he outlined the lengthly procedures needed for the procurement of a single watch clock for the Wilhelmshaven naval company. It appeared to this officer that Capt GAUL has entered considerably during the past five (5) years, and that he is now more seriously concerned with the responsibilities of his office. However, he still enjoys his refreshments (now consumed at a much lower rate) and his cigarettes. It was noted that when Capt GAUL boarded the COMSAWHER aircraft he was supplied with British cigarettes sold by the British service facilities in the Fed. Rep., and that he claimed preference for the British product. Aboard the Flagship, Capt GAUL suffered from indigestion; this he said resulted from the lack of "appropriate medicine" to relieve the sufferings after the refreshments he enjoyed the last evening ashore.

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(PNAY FORM 3820-2 (2) (REV. 6-58))

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Preparing Officer's Comment: I. It is hoped that the successful visit of Fed. Rep. Ministry of Defense officials to the Sixth Fleet will complete the first of a series in a program to educate influential German officials in the tasks and capabilities of modern naval forces. It is noted that in addition to bringing the U.S. Navy prestige and influence to bear on the development of the German Navy, the visits provide an excellent opportunity to develop and cultivate sources in the government.

II. No attempt has been made in this report to include other topics than those which may be of direct interest to the Office of Naval Intelligence.

III. This information is submitted in accordance with reference (a), which requested that biographical data, comments on the guests, especially their views, opinions and attitudes be submitted.

Prepared and forwarded:

WENDELL E. KIRKBY  
ENSR, U. S. NAVY

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DOD/Navy Form 3620-2 (C) (REV. 6-55)

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Subj: HESSINGER, Adolf

The following information on SUBJECT, a known or reported employee of the BLANK Office, has been extracted from the files of Central Registry:

Adolf HESSINGER, a former Wehrmacht Generalleutnant and presently/chief of Abt. II, was born 4 August 1897 in HOLZMINDEN. He is married to Gerda nee KUEHN, born 17 August 1907 in HANOVER. His present residence is given as BOCHUM/Venusberg, Brombeckerweg 5. (B-2)

HESSINGER attended elementary and high school in HOLZMINDEN. Upon graduation in February 1915 he volunteered as an officer candidate in the German Army and was commissioned a second lieutenant in 1916. He was retained as an officer in the Reichswehr and served continuously as a professional officer from 1915-1945. In 1922 he was detailed to the War College and upon completion, he was assigned permanently as a Captain to the General Staff. He continued to function in this section until 1940 when he was made Chief of Section I (Plans and Training), a post he held until he was released on suspicion of complicity in the 20 July 1944 conspiracy. (B-6)

By nature and conviction, SUBJECT is said to have been opposed to the war policies of Adolf HITLER. As a soldier however, he considered it his duty to live up to his oath of allegiance and perform his duty as prescribed by his superiors. This loyalty to his oath of allegiance is exemplified by his passive attitude toward the 20 July 1944 conspiracy. Even though SUBJECT knew from his General Staff work that the war was being lost and continuation would mean needless sacrifices, he could not be persuaded to participate in conspiracy and was said to have been hard pressed even to protect his colleagues involved in the plot. He was arrested, nevertheless, as a suspect after July 1944 but was released within two (2) months. After 1945 SUBJECT settled in MUNICH where from 1948-1951 he occupied himself as a free lance writer. In 1951 he accepted his present position in the BLANK Office. His choice for this appointment is based upon a personality characterization on which most of his former colleagues agree: "Typical staff officer of the old school. Today regarded as a walking military dictionary. Of blind obedience, fascinated by the strong personality of Dr. ADENAUER and completely under his influence." (B-3)

Upon taking his position in the BLANK office, HESSINGER was able to establish immediate working contact with other former military leaders including former Generalmajor Reinhard GEHLEN and former Oberstleutnant Friedrich Wilhelm HEIM, both of whom have been involved in wartime and postwar intelligence activities. (F-6) In mid-1952 moderate politicians were reportedly concerned with SUBJECT's close association with GEHLEN. (B-2)

In 1951 HESSINGER with Hans SPKINL maintained relations with SPD leader Kurt SCHUMACHER and kept him advised of BLANK Office policies and developments. At this time SUBJECT is also

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Enclosure (1) to COMMCHIEF  
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known to have been critical of Theodor BLANK, and complained of his lack of tact and of his habit of making important decisions without referring to SUBJECT and SPIDEL. (B-2)

HEDINGER, in turn, was criticized by his colleagues in 1951 for becoming involved with "Schwarzerat recipes," i.e. a formula for unwittingly increasing troop strength which is accomplished by the continuous transfer of active troops to the reserve and replacing them with recruits. By this technique the number of trained troops can be doubled or even tripled within a given period of time without overtly exceeding limitations on troop strength. Due to the large number of veterans available, SUBJECT feels that such training and turn-over of troops could be quickly accomplished.

Another criticism leveled at SUBJECT is that he is weak on strategical planning but strong on tactics. (B-3) HEDINGER was subsequently reported as being concerned almost exclusively with strategic studies, which he was allegedly providing to BLANK. Primarily he was working on proposals for Allied operations in Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Romania and Hungary, and believed that preparatory action should be taken on the basis of these plans. (B-3)

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Enclosure (1) to COMMNAVCR  
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OPNAV FORM 3820-2 (C) (REV. 8-68)

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MAJOR GENERAL HEINRICH ISAGALER, born on 22 January 1902 at Ulm/Donau, will be Inspector General of the West German Army and Chief of the Army Department within the Defense Ministry. General Isagaler has been the leading official in the Defense Ministry on military organization for several years. His special duties have been confined to personnel and staff organization. He is well qualified for his present position, in the Ministry, however, in view of his military experience, particularly as one-time deputy to Lieutenant General Adolf Henninger, Inspector General of the new German Armed Forces.

General Isagaler was a regular officer in the post-World War I Army, receiving training in the Infantry and Signal Corps. Before 1939, he was assigned to the War Academy in Berlin and, after experience on the staff of various infantry divisions, was permanently assigned to the General Staff. In World War II, he served on the Eastern Front and rose to the rank of Brigadier General (General Major). For a short period after being assigned as the Chief of Staff of the XXII Reserve Corp, he was placed into custody for suspected involvement in the 20 July 1944 plot against Hitler. Exonerated, he subsequently became Chief of Staff to the Commander-in-Chief of the Reserve Forces (Kissler), an assignment he retained until VE Day. Isagaler was brought to the United States as a POW and cooperated with the Department of Army Historical Project in Germany. He reportedly possesses a keen tactical and operational understanding. He is a conscientious worker in routine matters and is reliable in times of crisis.

His earlier education appears to have stressed classical studies - geography, history, art, and literature, particularly - which he continued throughout his life during his leisure hours. His English is inadequate for briefings.

During the spring of 1955, he visited the United States with a group of Defense Ministry military planners to be briefed on United States military concepts.

Taken from the Intelligence Review of December 1955 and January 1956.

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Enclosure (2) to COMINCHIEF

IR 560-56 of 23 April 1956